

Message Text

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SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION SCANDAL: CLUB OF TEN
LINK REVEALED

REF: CAPE TOWN 1232

SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO JUNE 24 PRESS REPORT RETIRED BRITISH
JUDGE GERALD SPARROW HAS CHARGED THAT HE RECEIVED FUNDS FROM THE
SOUTH AFRICAN DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TO CREATE THE "CLUB OF
TEN" AND PLACE PRO-SAG VIEWS IN LEADING WESTERN NEWSPAPERS.
THIS STORY AND OTHER REVELATIONS OF SECRET SAG PROPAGANDA
OPERATIONS WILL PRESUMABLY FURTHER HAMPER
SOUTH AFRICA'S INFORMATION CAMPAIGN IN THE WEST. END SUMMARY.

1. AN EXCLUSIVE LEADE STORY UNDER THE BANNER HEADLINES
OF THE JUNE 24 RAND DAILY MAIL ENTITLED "THE SECRET FRONT"
REPORTED BRITISH JUDGE GERALD SPARROW'S CLAIM THAT HE
FRONTED FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION
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1973-1975 WHEN HE HEADED THE "CLUB OF TEN" BASED
IN LONDON. THE JUNE 24 OVERVIEW KICKED OFF A THREE-
PART SERIES BY SPARROW WHICH BEGAN JUNE 26 ON SPARROW'S
RELATIONSHIP WITH SAG OFFICIALS AND THE CREATION OF THE
CLUB OF TEN, OSTENSIBLY A PRIVATE GROUP OF WEALTHY
SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESSMEN INTERESTED IN PUTTING FORWARD
PRO-SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT VIEWS IN THE WESTERN PRESS

(FULL TEXT OF SERIES TO FOLLOW SEPAIR). SPARROW CLAIMED THAT THE IDEA WAS SOLD TO HIM IN 1972 BY THE THEN SECRETARY OF INFORMATION, ESCHER RHOODIE, AND THAT "ALL LINES LED ULTIMATELY TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND HE WAS COMPLETELY INFORMED OF ALL ACTIVITIES AT HOME AND ABROAD." SPARROW REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HE RECEIVED OVER \$600,000 IN CASH OVER THE THREE YEARS FROM VLOK DELPORT, THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION AT SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE IN LONDON, THAT HE (SPARROW) RECEIVED THE TEXTS FOR THE FULL PAGE POLITICAL NOTICES FROM SOUTH AFRICA, CHECKED THE TEXTS FOR LIBELOUS CONTENT, AND THEN DIRECTED THAT THEY BE PLACED IN CERTAIN HIGH PRESTIGE FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS INCLUDING THE NEW YORK TIMES AND WASHINGTON POST. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS ACCOUNT, SPARROW SAID HE CONTINUED THIS ACTIVITY UNTIL, AFTER SEVERAL VISITS TO SOUTH AFRICA WITH HIS THAI WIFE (WHO WAS GRANTED WHITE PRIVILEGES), HE BECAME DISENCHANTED WITH APARTHEID, QUESTIONED THE MERITS OF THE POLICY, AND WAS RELIEVED OF HIS POSITION IN EARLY 1975 BY LES DE VILLIERS AND VLOK DELPORT.

2. JUNE 26 PRESS REPORTED BRITISH AND LOCAL REACTION TO SPARROW CHARGES. IN LONDON, THE STORY HAS REPORTEDLY CAUSED CONSTERNATION AMONG THOSE WHO HAD BEEN DECEIVED INTO THINKING THAT THE CLUB OF TEN WAS LEGITIMATE.
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IN SOUTH AFRICA, WHEN A MAIL REPORTER READ THE INITIAL REPORT TO RHOODIE ON THE PHONE, RHOODIE INTERRUPTED TO SAY "HOW MUCH MORE ARE YOU READING? AT THIS STAGE THERE IS ONLY ONE QUESTION I WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE RAND DAILY MAIL, AND THAT IS: HOW MUCH DID YOU PAY JUDGE SPARROW TO SAY ALL THIS? OTHERWISE, I HAVE NO COMMENT." JUNE 26 EDITION OF PRO-SAG CITIZEN PLACED HEAVY EMPHASIS ON FACT THAT THE MAIL PAID SPARROW FOR THE SERIES. THE CITIZEN REPORTED DENIALS FROM RHOODIE AND DELPORT, THE LATTER CHALLENGED SPARROW TO PRODUCE RECEIPTS TO PROVE A SAG CONNECTION WITH THE CLUB OF TEN. THE PAPER ALSO REPORTED THAT SPARROW HAD BEEN IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY IN RECENT YEARS AND THAT RHOODIE RECENTLY REFUSED TO GRANT SPARROW A LOAN TO VISIT SOUTH AFRICA AND HELP SPARROW PUBLISH HIS MEMOIRS. ACCORDING TO THE CITIZEN, SPARROW THEN "IS SAID TO HAVE APPROACHED ANTI-APARTHEID GROUPS AND CERTAIN NEWSPAPERS TO PUBLISH HIS MEMOIRS..." "MR. SPARROW INTENDS TO SING LIKE A CANARY, BUT SO FAR HIS ANTI-SOUTH AFRICAN SONGS SOUND MORE LIKE THE CROAKINGS OF A VULTURE."

3. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF RECENT SAG ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION HAD CONDUCTED SECRET OPERATIONS ABROAD, SPARROW'S "CLUB OF TEN" REVELATIONS SOUND CREDIBLE. THIS AND OTHER STORIES OF UNORTHODOX SAG INFORMATION TECHNIQUES WILL PROBABLY PUT A SERIOUS CRIMP IN THE SAG'S PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN IN THE WEST. A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL RECENTLY TOLD US THAT HIS MINISTRY WOULD TAKE OVER THE NEW BUREAU OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS IN AUGUST BUT THAT THE DOMESTIC SIDE OF THE BUSINESS WOULD BE SEPARATELY HANDLED BY THE MINISTRIES CONCERNED.
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